

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election makes me wonder if democracy and freedom as we know it America is in danger; the kind of danger our national bird faced just a few short years ago: extinction. To only air an anti-Kerry piece is one-sided and unfair, not the American way. I understand Michael Moore has offered to let you air his movie, "Fahrenheit 911," free of charge. If you really are interested in being fair and giving Americans fair and unbiased viewing, you will take him up on his offer. You have an obligation to the public, whose airwaves you use free of charge, to not force any one opinion on us. We should here from both sides or all sides of any issue. Just as you did when you refused to air Bill Maher's last broadcasts when his show was cancelled by ABC, you have decided what the American public should or should not see. Luckily, I moved from Columbus, where ABC is owned by your company, to Toledo, and I did get to see those last episodes of "Politically Incorrect." However, I have only watched ABC one time since the show was taken off the air: when Ted Koppel read the names of the soldiers killed in Iraq. I understand you chose not to air "Nightline" that night, once more denying your viewers freedom of choice. It is freedom of choice, whether it be a television show, an occupation, a school, a neighborhood, an abortion, or a candidate, that makes this nation the land of the free and the home of democracy. I am sure some of your viewers will choose not to watch the negative documentary about John Kerry just as some people in Toledo chose not to watch "Politically Incorrect." However, by not giving them a choice of seeing the other side, which is definitely shown in "Fahrenheit 911," you are denying them balanced viewing. I hope I never live in a city with any television stations owned by your company. If I do, I will exercise my freedom of choice as an American citizen and block them from my viewing schedule. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.